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afraid was invited by the desire to defeat the ticket." Possibly it is too early as yet to publish much of Sherman's correspondence, but a gleaning of the newspapers would have given a large amount of color which could be justifiably used in the preparation of a biography. As a history of national politics in the last quarter-century, the volume is highly creditable. Criticism is directed against the editorial plan of the publishers rather than to individual shortcomings of Mr. Burton.

DAVIS R. DEWEY.

*Life of Edward H. Rollins: a Political Biography.* By JAMES O. LYFORD. (Boston: Dana Estes and Company. 1906. Pp. viii, 547.)

THE subject of this biography was a prominent figure in the political life of New Hampshire from 1854 to 1884. Although he early entered upon a business career and served as treasurer of the Union Pacific Railroad during the most critical years of its history, the scope of this volume makes its sub-title, *A Political Biography*, accurate. Edward H. Rollins was the efficient organizer of the Republican party in New Hampshire, the way for which had been prepared by John P. Hale, Amos Tuck, and their Free Soil associates, and the successful manager, as chairman of its state committee, of its campaigns for twenty years. Endowed with keen political instinct, talent for organization and leadership of men, he rose to the highest political honors of his state, being successively speaker of the New Hampshire legislature, member of Congress for three terms (1861-1867) and United States senator (1877-1883). The portrayal of his life reveals a practical politician of much strength with some of the defects of his class and a legislator who served well his day and generation.

The story of such a career naturally includes a brief account of each of the political campaigns in New Hampshire from 1855 to 1883, sketches of the chief actors in both parties and the part played by each, and as the author says, "has afforded opportunity for collecting and preserving facts connected with the political history of New Hampshire for this period, which, except for a work of this kind, are not likely to be gathered together". The addition of this material gives the book its largest value for most readers, and makes it in effect a narrative history of New Hampshire politics during the generation named. The campaigns described are of more than local interest. New Hampshire, the home of President Pierce, wrested from Democratic control in 1855 by the Know-Nothing coalition under Rollins's leadership, long remained a doubtful state. Further, its election, held annually in March until 1878 and so the first of the year in any part of the Union, made New Hampshire a pivotal state. Hence both political parties sought to win this election for its national effect, and these campaigns were fought largely on national issues. One result of this almost constant

political struggle and the nearly even division of the voters between the Republican and Democratic parties was to intensify political feeling as perhaps in no other New England state, and explains the exceptionally strong party organizations of New Hampshire during that period.

The numerous sketches of the political friends and opponents of Mr. Rollins have been penned with charity, and some perhaps disclose fewer wrinkles and warts than the actual faces of these battling politicians revealed to their contemporaries. The brief sketch given on page 44 of Ruel Durkee, who is popularly assumed to have been the original of Jethro Bass, one of the chief figures in Winston Churchill's famous novel, *Coniston*, is of especial interest.

Scant reference is made to the political ethics of the period, and the reader will regret the omission of a fuller statement of the policies of the two great contending parties during these eventful years. Occasionally extracts from the resolutions of their respective conventions are quoted, and it may be suggested that an appendix reprinting the party platforms in full from 1856 to 1886 would be a more valuable document than that giving the names of the members of the state committees of those parties which forms Appendix 2. The author has made use of the best sources, Senator Rollins's letter-books and correspondence, the official records of the Republican state committee for the years 1858, 1859, 1860, from which interesting extracts are made (see "Votes", "laying assessments for campaign expenses upon Congressmen and state judges", pp. 80-87), newspaper files and legislative documents. His style is clear and graceful, and skill is shown in the selection and arrangement of salient facts, as well as due sense of proportion. It is the only book which has thus far appeared which gives a clear, orderly and accurate narrative of the political life of New Hampshire during this important epoch, and by his painstaking labor Mr. Lyford has made a distinct contribution to the history of the state.

JAMES F. COLBY.

*The American Nation: A History.* Edited by ALBERT BUSHNELL HART. Volume XX. *The Appeal to Arms.* By JAMES KENDALL HOSMER, LL.D. (New York and London: Harper and Brothers. 1907. Pp. xvi, 354.)

*The American Nation: A History.* Edited by ALBERT BUSHNELL HART. Volume XXI. *Outcome of the Civil War.* By JAMES KENDALL HOSMER, LL.D. (New York and London: Harper and Brothers. Pp. xiv, 352.)

THESE books might bear more felicitous titles. "Appeal to Arms" suggests the mere opening of the war, and "Outcome" the end or the results. "The Civil War, Volume I." and "The Civil War, Volume II." would tell exactly what the works contain. Each volume has an introduction by the editor and a preface by the author. *The Appeal to*